

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04

DHA-02 SCCT-01 IO-11 /101 W
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R 232035Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9770

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 1518

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BL

SUBJ: GOB EXILES ALLEGED COUP PLOTTERS

REF: LA PAZ 988

1. ON FEBRUARY 22 THE GOB EXILED TO CHILE NINE PERSONS
ACCUSED OF CONSPIRING TO OVERTHROW THE GOVERNMENT. INCLUDED
WERE TWO FORMER ARMY OFFICERS, RAUL LOPEZ LEYTON AND JOSE
PATINO AYOROA.

2. LOPEZ HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN PREVIOUS COUP ATTEMPTS AND
PATINO HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED AN INVETERATE PLOTTER,
TOGETHER WITH HIS COUSINS COLONEL (RETIRED) MIGUEL AYOROA
MONTANO (EXILED TO PARAGUAY LAST WEEK) AND GENERAL (RETIRED)
JUAN AYOROA AYOROA (FORMERLY MILITARY ATTACHE IN SPAIN)
NOW BEING SOUGHT BY GOB SECURITY FORCES.

3. JUAN AYOROA RECENTLY WROTE A LETTER TO THE HIGH COMMAND
OF ARMED FORCES SHARPLY CRITICAL OF THE WAY PRESIDENT
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BANZER WAS CONDUCTING THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN OUTLET TO THE

SEA. HE ALSO WAS OUTSPOKEN WHEN HE WAS DIRECTOR OF THE COMMAND AND STAFF SCHOOL IN COCHABAMBA LAST YEAR CONCERNING THE NEED TO CONSTITUTIONALIZE THE COUNTRY.

4. THE IDENTITIES OF TWO OF THE OTHER SEVEN EXILED SUGGEST THAT THEY ARE PERSONS INVOLVED IN FORMER COUP ATTEMPTS WITH LOPEZ AND THEN MAJOR GARY PRADO (NOW BEING SENT INTO GOLDEN EXILE AS ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE TO SPAIN), AND MEMBERS OF LEFTIST OFFSHOOTS OF THE MNR SUCH AS THE PRIN.

5. RECENT AGITATION IN THE UNIVERSITIES IN LA PAZ AND COCHABAMBA AND IN CERTAIN LABOR UNIONS, HAD SOME EARMARKS OF ORGANIZED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. IT MAY BE THAT THESE EXILES WERE FOMENTING THE AGITATION OR ATTEMPTING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT TO MOUNT A COUP.

6. IT IS OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST THAT BANZER HAS FINALLY MOVED AGAINST THE "AYOROA CLAN", ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL GROUPS WITHIN THE BOLIVIAN ARMY, AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO WIN THEM OVER EVIDENTLY FAILED. IT IS PERHAPS A MEASURE OF HIS INCREASED SUPPORT IN THE ARMED FORCES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE "CLAN" IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE PICKED THIS TIME TO CONSPIRE AGAINST BANZER UNLESS THEY FELT REASONABLY CONFIDENT OF SUBSTANTIAL ARMED FORCES SUPPORT. THIS WOULD IMPLY MORE OF A DIVISION WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AT THIS TIME THAN WE THINK IS THE CASE. THEY MAY HAVE MIS-READ THE SIGNS, OR THEY MAY HAVE DECIDED THAT TIME IS ON BANZER'S SIDE, THAT HE WOULD GAIN RATHER THAN LOSE STRENGTH IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, AND THAT A MOVE NOW HELD THE ONLY PROSPECT OF SUCCESS.

7. WE WILL WATCH REACTION CLOSELY, BUT DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE MUCH OF A STIR.
STEDMAN

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